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Military Heirloom Going Home

MARCIA HORA

Janelle Blake of Tryon was looking for a desk and she found just the one she was looking for at a storage unit auction in North Platte.

Just like an episode of Storage Wars, you never know what you'll discover when you purchase a unit. Some people find valuable antiques. Then there are those who find unique items, books and collectibles.

Blake said along with the desk, she uncovered a beautifully framed heirloom with pictures of Staff Sergeant Michael Infurna, and his fellow Air Force buddies.

There were two letters and a Western Union telegram to his father, Edward Infurna documenting the plight of his son and later the news that Staff Sergeant Infurna was indeed safe and would be returning home.

Blake knew she had to track down someone who would want the framed picture returned to the family. She learned that Sergeant Infurna had two children with his wife, Helen. Grandson, Todd Infurna will be taking possession of the military picture.

One of the letters in the frame is dated July 29, 1944, and written to Mr. Edward Infurna from the Fifteenth Air Force Office of the Commanding General and signed by N.F. Twining, Major General, USA Commanding.

"As you are no doubt aware, much of the recent success of the Allied Armies in Europe has been due to the systematic destruction of Nazi factories and communications by the brave men of our Air Forces. On June 13, 1944, your son, Staff Sergeant Michael Infurna, 12174316, was to have taken part in a raid on targets in Germany, but his ship turned back before reaching its objective for reasons which are unknown.

"When last seen, Mike's Flying Fortress was apparently under good control but, since it has not been heard from again, we are forced to conclude that it was forced down in enemy territory. In the absence of any more definite information I can only ask you to cling to your hope for your son's safety. If further word is received you will be notified as quickly as possible.

"Mike was well aware of the hazards involved in his job as a gunner on a B-17, but he wanted to serve his country in the capacity where he felt he could do most to advance the day of victory. He never hesitated to risk his life in the performance of his duties and has been awarded the Air Medal for his part in many dangerous missions. His friends here wish you to know that they are also concerned for his fate, and feel the deepest sympathy for you and his family at this trying time."

In a letter from the War Department dated June 19, 1944 from J.A. Ulio, Major General, The Adjutant General stated a report had been received that Staff Sergeant Michael Infurna was safe and interned in Switzerland.

"It is hoped that you will find comfort in the realization that the internee is not in unfriendly hands, and that he enjoys many advantages not available to those held in enemy territory as prisoners of war."

MARCIA HORA - THE STAPLETON ENTERPRISE

The framed military information about Staff Sergeant Michael Infurna will be going back to family members after being discovered by Janelle Blake of Tryon in a storage unit in North Platte.

A Western Union telegram dated March 6, 1945 reported that Staff Sergeant Michael Infurna was being returned to the United States to arrive in the near future. He would be given an opportunity to communicate with his

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New Chief Credit Officer

Community First Bank president Joe Carey will be the new chief credit officer working in the Stapleton branch. Carey will be working in the ag and commercial loan department effective immediately.

Carey is presently in the Community First Bank, Maywood branch, and he and his wife, Robyn plan to move to Stapleton this spring. The couple has a blended family of five.

Carey started his banking career in Maywood and will commute from Maywood to Stapleton until he relocates.

"I am very excited to come up to this branch. Stapleton is very important to us," Carey said. "We need stability in this branch and I want to be a part of the community and make that happen. We have a very good group of people working here and I look forward to meeting all of our customers."

Carey said he and his wife Robyn are actively involved in Robyn's parents ranch located near Valentine. Moving to Stapleton will allow him to be closer to help at the ranch and also to hunt and fish when time allows.

MARCIA HORA - THE STAPLETON ENTERPRISE

"I spend a lot of time in the bank, but I do enjoy helping out with ranch work when I have the chance."

Village Reorganizes

The reorganizational meeting of the Village of Stapleton was held December 19 at which time appointments were made to take effect January 1.

Dan Beckius will remain chairman and Wayne Hora, vice-chairman. Dan Beckius will continue as administrator and Stacey Anderson, Village Clerk-Treasurer.

Schroeder & Schroeder was appointed village attorney, Brent Burklund, street superintendent, and T.C. Engineering, Inc. will be the village engineer. Gwen Brubaker CPA/CFF,CFE was appointed village auditor.

Serving on the park commission will be Dan Beckius, Wayne Hora, Larry Vasquez, Steve

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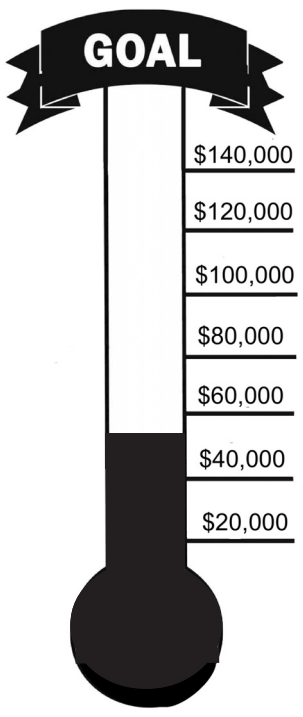
Let's make a
SPLASH
for our kids!

$158,000



Total Raised
as of December 6, 2023
$55,982.24

Thank you!

New donors include:

- Donation Jars: + $114.40
- Pasta Fundraiser: $386.80
- Donna Myers Memorial: Ongoing
- John & Terri Parsons: $50.00
- MJK CPA: $500.00
- Community First Bank: $500.00 + Matching Grant
- Christmas Pop-Up Thrift Shop Fundraiser: $717.22
- Scrap Metal Drive: Ongoing

To donate to the **SPLASH PAD PROJECT**, please make your check out to the Village of Stapleton and write splash pad on the memo line.
Drop your check off at the Village Hall in the Stapleton Community Center or mail it to:
Village of Stapleton, P.O. Box 133
Stapleton, NE 69163

2023 Christmas Blizzard

Troopers with the Nebraska State Patrol responded to nearly 150 weather-related incidents on Nebraska roadways on Christmas Day 2023. Troopers responded to 28 crashes and performed 117 motorist assists as much of the state experienced a white Christmas. The vast majority of incidents did not involve injuries. One crash occurring at approximately 11:30 a.m. Monday, December 25, resulted in the closure of eastbound Interstate 80 for approximately three hours. Winter driving conditions existed across the state on Tuesday and Blizzard Warnings remained in effect throughout much of north-central and western Nebraska. Travelers are encouraged to check 511 Nebraska.gov for updated road conditions. Stranded motorists should stay with their vehicle and call NPS Highway Helpline at *55.

Weather

DATE	HI	LO	MT
16	49	19	0
17	51	20	0
18	59	18	0
19	45	18	0
20	63	21	0
21	51	25	0
22	60	29	0
23	61	38	0
24	47	29	0.42
25	29	22	0.16
26	25	21	0.13
27	30	25	0.12
28	33	25	0.03
29	35	19	0

Snow: 0.5" on Dec. 24; 1.5" on Dec. 25; 1.1" on Dec. 26; 0.8" on Dec. 27; and 0.3" on Dec. 28.

McPherson Co. News

- *Over The Hills*
- *Graphic Files*
- *Nebraska Children*
- *"Precious Memories"*

Public Notices

- ULNRD Notice
- Logan Co. Planning Commission Hearing
- McPherson Co. #90 Meeting Notice
- McPherson Co. Commissioners Notice
- Village Of Stapleton Public Notice
- Stapleton Rural Fire District Meeting Notice

Keep Informed.
Read the Notices
& Proceedings

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